



**MOREHOUSE COLLEGE**  
A proud tradition of producing outstanding leaders

## Morehouse College Program

### Program Description

The Morehouse College Program was established in May 2001 under a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to partner the Laboratory with Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. Under the agreement, students and faculty are invited to engage in science and engineering research at the Laboratory through a summer internship. The agreement established a sustained relationship between Morehouse students and faculty and the Laboratory, thus strengthening the pipeline for future hiring of qualified and capable candidates from one of the nation's premier historically Black colleges.

Ranked number one in the *Black Enterprise* Day Star list as the best college for African-Americans, Morehouse College is the nation's largest liberal arts college for men. Founded in 1867, the college enrolls approximately 3,000 students and confers bachelor's degrees on more black men than any other institution in the nation. Degree granting disciplines include aeronautics/aerospace, astronomy, astrophysics, chemistry, computers/computer science, earth sciences, engineering, life sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and physics. A five-year dual degree engineering program with the Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech) is incorporated into the engineering curriculum through the Dual Degree Engineering Program Office at the Atlanta University Center.

The MOA established that the Science and Technology Base Program Office (STB) at the Laboratory would work with technical divisions at the Laboratory to identify opportunities matching the Morehouse students' research interests with technical staff members who would serve as effective mentors. The students selected to participate in the program become part of the existing Undergraduate Student (UGS) Program, and are compensated according to the policies and procedures for UGS students with similar experience. Students who demonstrate an aptitude for research and who maintain a record of

high academic achievement at Morehouse may be invited back to the Laboratory in successive summers. During the academic year, Laboratory mentors maintain ongoing contact with students invited to return.

Morehouse faculty is encouraged to consider both summer research and longer-term sabbatical leaves at the Laboratory during the upcoming year. During a summer research appointment, the faculty members are compensated at a level consistent with the provisions of the Collaborators Special Program (LANL Administrative Manual 1204). Compensation for Morehouse faculty during sabbaticals of periods in excess of six months, but less than one year, is governed by the terms of the Long-Term Visiting Staff Member Special Employment Program (LANL Administrative Manual 1109). STB facilitates identifying appropriate matches between Morehouse faculty and Laboratory technical staff members, and such matches are subject to approval by both Morehouse and the Laboratory. Morehouse faculty is encouraged to submit research proposals to the Laboratory's appropriate technical divisions to foster ongoing research collaborations.

The campus administrator is primarily responsible for the recruitment strategy. Students are targeted within the Packard Scholars Program

located in the Division of Mathematics, Natural and Physical Sciences. However, a visit to the campus to meet with former summer interns and new recruits is recommended to maintain contact and build new faculty, administrative, and student contacts. Morehouse College and the Laboratory agree that a steady state of 15–20 summer undergraduate interns at the Laboratory should be the goal once the partnership matures. To grow the agreement, prior summer research interns are welcomed back in addition to newly recruited students.

### Performance Objective and Milestones

The main performance objective is to establish a sustained faculty collaboration and student internship program between Morehouse College and the Laboratory. The activities to achieve this objective include (1) recruiting the best qualified students and faculty that will benefit most from their research experience at the Laboratory, (2) identifying and securing positive mentor/student relationships, (3) providing a stimulating research environment for each selected participant, and (4) maintaining contact with participants once they return to campus. By meeting this

objective and goals, students will be encouraged to continue pursuit of careers in science and engineering. Performance will be measured through follow-up activities with the goal of attracting selected students to the Laboratory as regular members of the technical staff.

Although the agreement did not become official until May 15, 2001, milestones were established and met. These milestones were to:

- Identify participating mentors and line organizations by April 1, 2001.
- Conduct mentor-training by April 15, 2001.
- Review submitted resumes from Morehouse College by April 30, 2001.
- Match students with mentors and positions by May 15, 2001.
- Welcome students to Laboratory and conduct orientation session by June 7, 2001.

### Highlights of this Year's Accomplishments

Ten Morehouse students (Fig. 39) were selected to participate in the program this past year. All were placed in technical areas at the Laboratory.



Figure 39. LANL Morehouse students.

### **Anecdotal Comments**

According to two of the ten students from the first summer 2001, *“I enjoyed networking with the vast number of other interns. And, I was exposed to new and important information through networking with my mentor, Dr. Charles Milke,”* said Fenyang Stewart, an applied physics major who spent the summer at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Fenyang has been invited back to the Laboratory over the

December holiday break and is planning to return next summer.

*“My time here has helped me decide whether or not I should pursue medicine or research in the future,”* noted Kevin Chandler, a chemistry major who spent the summer in the Biosciences Division with mentor, Rashi Iyer. Kevin is planning to continue his research at the Laboratory in summer 2002.